

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (new) A tray for sample vessels, comprising an upper surface (4) with a plurality of orifices (2; 2.1) in matrix configuration, each of which accommodates one sample vessel, wherein each orifice (2; 2.1) comprises two straight positioning walls (10), which define a positioning corner (11) forming a right angle, the orifice is provided with a flexible support wall (13; 31.1) having an upper edge, two lateral edges and a lower edge (13; 13.1), the upper surface of the tray joining the upper edge of the support wall, which support wall presses a sample vessel, which is inserted into the orifice, towards the positioning corner, and each orifice has at least one side wall (12) joining the lateral edge of the support wall.

12. (new) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which each orifice is provided with a separate support wall (13; 13.1).

13. (new) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the walls (10, 12, 13) of the orifice encircle the orifice peripherally.

14. (new) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the support wall (13) is inclined towards the centre of the orifice.

15. (new) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which an outwardly directed positioning wall (10) is provided in the orifice at the edge of the matrix.

16. (new) A tray as defined in claim 15, in which the outwardly directed positioning walls (10) of the orifices located at the edge join each other, forming a continuous periphery (14) around the matrix.

17. (new) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the orifices (2; 2.1) are disposed in arrays of four each, starting from the corner of the matrix, with the support means (13; 31.1) oriented towards the centre of the array.